pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question Nos. 1649 and 1852 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 2006 and 30th August, 2007 respectively and state:

(a) the name of the location of the proposed Submarine Cable Landline Station in West Bengal;

(b) the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the tentative time schedule of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The name of the location of the proposed Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal is Digha.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is 400 million U.S. Dollars.

(c) The likely date of the completion of the project shall be approximately 15 months from the date of award of contract. The likely date of award of contract is March/April, 2008. Accordingly, the tentative date of the completion of the project is 3rd Quarter of 2009.

Spectrum usage charges

1035. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecommunications in its report submitted recently has made certain recommendations, *inter-alia,* on the spectrum usage charges;

(b) whether this report has spurred a debate between the private mobile telephone service providers based on GSM and CDMA technologies and the MTNL/BSNL; and

(c) if so, details and the measures contemplated to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)'s Report, *inter-alia* on 'Spectral Efficiency' has been accepted by the Government in-principle, Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision, *inter-alia,* on this Report in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is *sub-judice*;

Declining BSNL mobile services standard

†1036. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for constant decrease in BSNL mobile services standard in various parts of Uttarakhand State;

(b) the details of the steps being taken to remove these causes;

(c) whether his Ministry is formulating any special action plan for the expansion of BSNL mobile services in the border area of the State; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when mobile services proposed to be made available in the Dharchula, Jhulaghat, Pancheshwar, Tanakpur and Banbasa areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile service of BSNL in Uttarakhand State is working satisfactorily in general. However, sometimes there is some disruption mainly due to difficult hilly terrains, Optical Fiber Cable breakdown because of road widening, prolonged electricity failure etc. Also there is congestion in the network sometimes at some places. BSNL has plans to augment its mobile network in Uttarakhand State for enhanced capacity, coverage and Quality of Service (QoS). Network is also being optimized by way of drive tests on regular basis to ensure QoS.

(c) and (d) Provision of mobile service in border areas of State is being done under the general development plan of mobile service in the state. However, there is no special plan of BSNL for expansion of GSM based mobile service in the border areas of the State. Action has been inititated to commission mobile service at Tankapur during the current financial year and also at Banbasa during the subsequent financial year.

There is no plan to provide mobile services in Dharchula, Jhulaghat and Pancheshwar as they are situated in the international buffer zone of 500 meters where there is restriction by Government of India to provide mobile services.

Violation of licence agreement by Reliance Infocom

1037. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the re-routing of the international calls as local calls by Reliance Infocom, Government have incurred huge revenue loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to recover that amount from the private player;

(d) whether Government proposes to revoke the license of the company for violation of license agreement; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) M/s Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL) tampered the Calling Line Identification of certain incoming ISD calls and regenerated and re-routed the calls as domestic calls during 2004, thereby avoiding the payment of statutory Access Deficit Charges to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). MTNL and BSNL raised bills amounting to Rs. 341.27 crores and Rs. 319.04 crores respectively on M/s RIL as per their Interconnect Agreements. M/s RIL have paid the same. The matter is *sub-judice* in Delhi High Court.

(d) and (e) Union of India issued the Show Cause Notices to M/s RIL regarding tampering of Calling Line Identification (CLI) of incoming ISD calls to evade Access Deficit Charge (ADC). Government after following the due process as per provisions of the Licence Agreements levied a penalty of Rs. 150 crores on M/s RIL (Rs. 50 crores each against the